There have been 683* deaths and 1485* injuries, in various consequential train accidents occurred between January 2002 to October 2003. (*Figures provisional)

The derailment of 231 Mysore-Bangalore Passenger train on 23-10-2003 resulted in 4 deaths and 21 injuries. Commissioner of Railway Safety/Southern Circle has established the cause of the accident as "fracture of left hand wheel of the last wheelset of the last coach" in his preliminary report of the accident.

(e) To prevent accidents on Indian Railways, relevant measures are taken on a continuous basis. These measures include induction of appropriate modern technologies, upgradation of human resources and more effective and efficient supervision. Stringent punishments to the extent of 'removal' and 'dismissal' are also imposed on officials held responsible for accidents, a Special Railway Safety Fund has become operational since October, 2001 to wipe out the arrears of replacement of overaged assets *viz.* track, bridges, rolling stock, signalling gears etc. within a period of six years.

A series of "Safety Samvads" have been organised since July 2003, to interact with the field staff and organized labour of the Railways to enhance the safety consciousness of the workforce.

(f) Rail Passenger Insurance Scheme is already in existence on Zonal Railways *w.e.f.* 01.08.1994 to provide insurance cover to the passengers against their death/injury in train accidents and untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

Complaint against US measures in WTO

† 475. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3264, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the countries of the world like Japan, Brazil, South Korea, Switzerland etc. have lodged a complaint against the USA's decision to increase taxation to restrict the import of steel there;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether India has also taken any such step; and

(c) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Denial of access to US markets by steel exporters

476. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that, from Anti-dumping actions, Washington has started employing ISO quality standards as yet another device to deny market access for iron and steel products from India;

(b) whether this move does not amount to a non-tariff barrier and thereby violating the principle of free-trade;

(c) if so, how Government are thinking of dealing with the situation;

(d) whether any negotiations have been made with the US Administration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House:

Export of Steel

477. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether, of late China, has adopted a rigid posture with regard to export of steel and steel products from India to the Chinese market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a high-level delegation led by the Secretary, Ministry of Steel visited China recently; and

(d) if so, whether the matter was discussed with the Chinese authorities to the satisfaction of both the countries?